

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 15, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

to: Kirk Robinson
Project Manager – TNP-TPP-3

Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to relocate a portion of its White Bluffs-Richland 115-kV transmission line that is currently located in private homeowner backyards of the 1800 block of Stevens and Mahan Drives in Richland, Washington.

Work Order No. or Project No.:

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.13: Minor relocations of existing transmission lines (less than 10 miles in length) made to enhance existing environmental and land use conditions. Such actions include relocations to avoid right-of-way encroachments, resolve conflict with property development, accommodate road/highway construction, allow for the construction of facilities such as canals and pipelines, or reduce existing impacts to environmentally sensitive areas.

Location: Richland, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and City of Richland

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to relocate a portion of its White Bluffs-Richland 115-kV transmission line that is currently located in private homeowner backyards of the 1800 block of Stevens and Mahan Drives in Richland, Washington.

BPA plans to relocate approximately 0.5 miles of its transmission line to the City of Richland's power line located on the east side of Stevens Drive so that both lines would be located within the city's right-of-way. BPA would coordinate with impacted homeowners prior to the removal of the existing line and wood poles. Once the poles and transmission line are removed from the backyards, BPA would release the 100-foot right-of-way easement that currently encumbers those properties.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 Fed. Reg. 1512.2, April 24, 1992). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25 (a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25 (a)(2)], and is not precluded by

40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health; (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities; (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion referenced above. We, therefore, determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Dawn R. Boorse
Environmental Project Manager – KEC-4

Concur:

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: _____

Attachment: CX Checklist